Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

	Original		Updated		Corrected		Supple	emental				
LRB	Number	09-4079/1		Introd	luction Num	nber S	B-478					
Description Orders to commit state prison inmates to a mental health facility												
Fiscal	Effect											
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DOC/ Dustin Trickle (608) 240-5413 Robe					ert Margolies (608) 240-5056 2/5/2010							

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOC 2/5/2010

LRB Number 0	9-4079/1	Introduction Number	SB-478	Estimate Type	Original					
Description										
Orders to commit state prison inmates to a mental health facility										

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, prison inmates who are committed for mental health treatment under an alternative petition procedure under s. 51.20(1)(ar)WI Stats may not be committed for mental health treatment for a period exceeding 180 days in any 365-day period. Under this bill, an inmate may initially be committed for treatment for a period not to exceed six months, and any consecutive commitment order may not exceed 12 months.

In calendar year 2009, there were ninety-two Chapter 51 mental health commitments within the Department of Corrections. Of these, eleven were of the 51.20(1)(ar) type.

Under current law, if an inmate is committed under 51.20(1)(ar) for an initial 180 day term within a 365 day period, and the Department pursues re-commitment for an additional term within a separate 365 day period, an additional initial commitment hearing must be conducted for that new term. The provisions of this bill would allow immediate extension of an initial 6 month civil commitment term pending the outcome of a recommitment hearing, instead of requiring initial commitment hearings for each new 365 day period. The provisions of this bill may decrease workload in the form of reduced staff time devoted to preparation and participation at hearings related to re-commitment of inmates, as less staff time would be required for preparation and participation in re-commitment hearings. It is anticipated, however, that the decreased workload, would not have a significant impact on staff resources.

The number of inmates committed annually under Wis. Statute 51.20(1)(ar) varies from year to year and can't be predicted as each commitment is uniquely determined on a case by case basis. The Department is, therefore, unable to estimate a cost impact resulting from this proposed legislation.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications